

B2 14. (Amended) A deck system comprising a plurality of construction beams secured side-to-side, wherein each of the construction beams comprises a tubular housing filled with a solid material having a Poisson's ratio, wherein the tubular housing is constructed such that a Poisson's ratio of the tubular housing is less than the solid material to thereby confine the solid material, the respective tubular housings forming part of each of the construction beams.

B3 17. (Twice Amended) A method of forming a construction beam comprising filling a tubular housing with a solid material having a Poisson's ratio, the tubular housing forming a part of the construction beam, wherein the tubular housing is constructed such that a Poisson's ratio of the tubular housing is less than the solid material to thereby confine the solid material.

B4 21. (Amended) A construction beam comprising a tubular housing filled with a solid material and at least one prestressed reinforcing rod embedded in the solid material, the tubular housing forming part of the construction beam.

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 14, 17 and 21 have been amended. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

At the outset, Applicant extends his appreciation to Examiner Nguyen for his courtesy in conducting the personal interview with Applicant's representative on July 16, 2002. The contents of the interview are summarized in the following remarks.